

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

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P R 061914 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9035

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBSSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX BY POUCH

AMCONSUL LYON BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL NICE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PARIS 9779

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: NEW FACES IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE INCLUDES BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NEW MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND OF FORMER MINISTERS SWITCHED TO NEW POSTS. SEPARATE MESSAGES WILL BE SENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT, DEFENSE MINISTER ROBERT GALLEY AND LABOR MINISTER GEORGES GORSE. SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL ALSO
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OFFER ANALYSIS AND COMMENT ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

2. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN NINE MINISTRIES. RAYMOND MARCELLIN REMAINS AT INTERIOR; VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING AT FINANCE; JOSEPH FONTANET AT EDUCATION; OLIVIER GUICHARD AT EQUIPMENT AND HOUSING; ROBERT POUJADE AT ENVIRONMENT; JACQUES CHIRAC AT AGRICULTURE; JEAN CHARBONNEL AT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT; HUBERT GERMAIN AT POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ANDRE BORD AT VETERANS AFFAIRS.

3. THE FOLLOWING PERSONALITIES HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM THE GOVERNMENT: RENE PLEVEN (JUSTICE) AND MAURICE SCHUMANN (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) BOTH LOST THEIR LEGISLATIVE ELECTION RACES. JEAN FOYER (PUBLIC HEALTH), ROBERT BOULIN (RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT), JACQUES DUHAMEL (CULTURAL AFFAIRS), YVON BOURGES (COMMERCE) AND ANDRE BETTENCOURT (MINISTER- DELEGATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) WERE REELECTED BUT NOT RENAMED TO GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THESE MAY BE NAMED SECRETARIES OF STATE (JUNIOR MINISTERS). THE SECRETARIES OF STATE WILL BE NAMED NEXT WEEK. THE " SUPER MINISTERS", I. E., MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO SIMPLE MINISTERS IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THE NAME OF DEFENSE MINISTRY CHANGED TO MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES.

4. THERE ARE 22 MINISTERS IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, THREE MORE THAN IN THE FORMER GOVERNMENT. OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WAS FORMERLY HELD BY A SECRETARY OF STATE AND IS NOW A FULL MINISTRY. TWO NEW MINISTRIES WERE CREATED: INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. THE POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT INCLUDES 13 UDR MINISTERS AGAINST 14 IN THE FORMER GOVERNMENT; 4 INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS AGAINST 3; TWO CENTER UNION (FORMERLY CDP) AGAINST 3; ONE INDEPENDENT AND 2 NON- POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS.

5. BIOGRAPHIC DATA:

A. MINISTER OF INFORMATION: PHILIPPE MALUAD (IE)--MALAUD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION IN THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT, IS ONE OF THREE
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STAUNCH CONSERVATIVE, AS A MOVE TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S

VOICE IN TV- RADIO PROGRAMMING AND COMMENTARY. MALAUD HAS SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORS A CHANGE IN GOF MONOPOLY OF RADIO AND TV. HOW AND WHETHER HIS PERSONAL VIEWS WILL HAVE ANY IMPACT ON PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, WHO FAVORS RETENTION OF THE MONOPOLY, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

B. MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS: AURICE DRUON (NON- POLITICAL)-- DRUON, 55, A POPULAR WRITER AND GONCOURT PRIZE WINNER, HAS BEEN LABELED THE " CANTOR" OF POMPIDOLISM BY THE PRESS, SUGGESTING THAT HIS ROLE WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF MALRAUX VIS- A- VIS DE GAULLE. DRUON HAS BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD BECAUSE OF A RECENT TV SERIES BASED ON HISTORICAL NOVELS HE WORTE CALLED " LES ROIS MAUDITS," A ROYAL SOAP OPERA ON THE MEDIEVAL FRENCH KINGS. DRUON STUDIED AT SCIENCES " PO," FOUGHT IN THE RESISTANCE, AND BEGAN A LITERARY CAREER IN 1942 WITH AVANT- GRADE POETRY. IN 1948 HE WON THE GONCOURT PRIZE FOR HIS NOVEL " LES GRANDES FAMILLES" AND IN 1966 HE BECAME ONE OF THE " IMMORTALS" OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY. IT WAS RUMORED IN 1972 THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS POST SHOULD DUHAMEL STEP DOWN FOR RESONS OF HEALTH.

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P R 061914 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9036
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PARIS 9779

C. MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM: ALAIN PEYREFITTE
(UDR) -- THE NEWLY- CREATED MINISTRY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORM WENT TO A DEDICATED GAULLIST, UDR SECRETARY- GENERAL
ALAIN PEYREFITTE. PEYREFITTE, 47 YEARS OLD, HELD THREE
MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IN SUCCESSIVE POMPIDOU GOVERNMENTS
FROM 1962 TO 1968 -- INFORMATION, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION.
IN THE LATTER POST HE WAS CAUGHT IN THE " EVENTS OF MAY"
1968 , AND RESIGNED FROM THE GOVERNMENT. HE WON BACK HIS
ASSEMBLY SEAT IN JUNE 1968 AND WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE
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EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
PEYREFITTE HAS BEEN A GAULLIST STALWART SINCE THE RESISTANCE
AND WAS ONE OF DE GAULLE' S " BRIGHT YOUNG MEN."
HE STARTED OUT AS A DIPLOMAT, 1947 TO 1956, AND ENTERED POLITICS
AS A GAULLIST DEPUTY IN 1958. HE IS A HARD- LINE GAULLIST
AND HAS AT TIMES BEEN FOUND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, BOTH BY
EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND HIS FRENCH ASSOCIATES. HIS NEW
MINISTERIAL POST IS PRESUMABLY A REWARD FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL
WORK AS UDR SECRETARY GENERAL IN ORGANIZING THE TROOPS
FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REFORMING
AND " HUMANIZING" THE SWOLLEN PARIS BUREAUCRACY. HE IS REMAINING
IN OFFICE AS UDR SECRETARY GENERAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

D. MINISTER OF COMMERCE: JEAN ROYER (INDEPENDENT) --
JEAN ROYER, THE ONLY NON- PARTY POLITICIAN IN THE NEW GOVERN-
MENT, WAS A DELEGATE IN THE GAULLIST RASSEMBLEMENT DU
PEUPLE FRANCAIS MOVEMENT FROM 1947 TO 1951. HE HAS BEEN
A DEPUTY SINCE 1958 BUT HAS NOT JOINED THE UDR THOUGH HE IS
CONSIDERED A GAULLIST AT HEART. IT IS SID THAT HIS DISAGREEMENT
WITH THE UDR MAY STEM FROM PERSONAL DISAGREEMENT WITH MICHEL
DEBRE. IN ANY CASE HE HAS MAINTAINED A NOTEWORTHY FREEDOM OF
ACTION DURING HIS PARLIAMENTARY CAREER. ROYER, 53,
IS FORCEFUL, EFFICIENT AND AUSTERE. MAYOR OF TOURS SINCE
1958, HE HAS BUILT THE CITY INTO A MODERN ECONOMIC CENTER,
AND, WITH THE SAME ENERGY, HE HAS LED A CRUSADE AGAINST
PRONOGRAPHY, -- THIS CRUSADE MADE HIM A NATIONAL FIGURE.
AS A RESULT OF THE LATTER ACTIVITY, HE IS THE BETE NOIRE OF

"LIBERATED" YOUTH AND LIBERALS IN GENERAL. HE WILL BE EXTREMELY POPULAR, HOWEVER, WITH SMALL SHOPKEEPERS AND TRADESMEN WHO WILL BE HIS PRINCIPAL CLIENTS. HE REPORTEDLY FAVORS STRONG TIES BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US. BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS, ROYER WAS A TEACHER IN TOURS. HE HAS TAUGHT AMERICAN HISTORY AND KNOWS A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE U. S.

E. MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES -- BERNARD STASI (CDP) -- BERNARD STASI AT 43 IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. FIRST ELECTED EPUTY IN THE GAULLIST LANDSLIDE OF 1968, STASI HAS BEEN ACTIVE AND VOCAL IN ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AND HAS DEVELOPED A SOLID POLITICAL BASE. HE WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF EPERNAY IN 1970. REELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR BY A HEALTHY MARGIN, HE IS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE CDP (NOW CALLED CENTER UNION), THE CENTRIST ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT
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COALITION. EDUCATED AT TWO OF FRANCE' S MOST PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS, SCIENCE " PO" AND ENA, STASI HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION PRIOR TO RUNNING FOR OFFICE. HE HAS SERVED AS CHEF DE CABINET TO THE PREFECT OF ALGIERS (1959-6 1) AND CHEF DE CABINET TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, AND HE HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. STASI HAS VISITED THE U. S. SEVERAL TIMES IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND WAS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1970. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US . HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BRING A MORE LIBERAL VIEWPOINT TO THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES MINISTRY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, XAVIER DENIAU.

F. MINISTER OF JUSTICE: JEAN TAITTINGER (UDR)-- TAITTINGER, 50 YEARS OLD, WAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE BUDGET IN THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT. HE IS MAYOR OF REINS. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A UDR DEPUTY SINCE 1958. HE IS A LOYAL GAULLIST WHOSE EDUCATION AND BACKGROUND GIVE HIM AN EXPERTISE IN FINANCIAL RATHER THAN LEGAL AFFAIRS. PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TAITTINGER AND GISCARD D' ESTAING WERE AT ONE TIME STRAINED WHEN THE UDR USED TAITTINGER TO BLOCK GISCARD' S ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY' S FINANCE COMMITTEE IN 1968. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, HE HAS WORKED WELL WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. TAITTINGER IS THE HEIR OF A FAMIL EMPIRE BUILT ON HOTELS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND CHAMPAGNE. HIS FATHER MADE THE TAITTINGER CHAMPAGNE LABEL WORLD FAMOUS. HE HAS STRONG GAULLIST CREDENTIALS AND HAS SERVED BOTH AS NATIONAL SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE UDR.

G. MINISTER OF HEALTH - MICHEL PONIATOWSKI (IR) -- PONIATOWSKI IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT

REPUBLICAN PARTY, A CLOSE PERSONAL FIREND OF GISCARD D' ESTAINING
AND HIS TOP POLITICAL ADVISOR. PONIATOWSKI COMES FROM A VERY
OLD FAMILY, IS INDEPENDENTLY WOEALTHY AND IS POLITICALLY
AMBITIOUS. BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS, HE SPENT 20 YEARS IN THE
FINANCE MINISTRY WHERE HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN
1962. HE HAS BEEN REGULARLY REELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY SINCE
1967. PONIATOWSKI HAS BEEN A THORN IN THE SIDE OF HIS
GAULLIST ALLIES. HE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN GISCARD' S HATCHET
MAN, THE ONE TO ENUNCIATE IR POSITIONS WHICT WOULD HAVE BEEN
IMPOLITIC FOR GISCARD TO TAKE PUBLICLY. IN A RECENT BOOK
ENTITLED " CARDS ON THE TABLE," PONIATOWSKI SHARPLY CRITICIZED
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THE GAULLITS BECAUSE OF THE RECENT SERIES OF SCANDALS. HE
IS OUTSPOKEN IN FAVOR OF EXPANDING THE GOVERNMENT COALITION
TO INCLUDE THE CENTRISTS AND HE HAS CONSISTENTLY CALLED FOR
FASTER PROGRESS ON EUROPEAN UNITY. MANY, IN FACT, CONSIDER
HIM CLOSER TO JEAN LECANUET THAN TO HARD- CORE GAULLISTS.

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P R 061914 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9037

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PARIS 9779

H. MINISTER OF RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT: JOSEPH COMITI (UDR) -- COMITI WAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FROM 1968 UNTIL HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT. BORN IN CORSICA IN 1920, COMITI HAS LONG BEEN A LEADING GAULLIST POLITICAL FIGURE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. HE IS A PHYSICIAN AND A SURGEON BY PROFESSION BUT HE ENTERED POLITICS SHORTLY AFTER DE GAULLE RETURNED TO POWER IN 1958. HE HAS A LONG-STANDING BITTER RIVALRY WITH GASTON DEFFERRE, MAYOR OF MARSEILLE, WHOM HE ALMOST UNSEATED IN A CLOSE MAYORAL RACE IN
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1965. COMITI WAS NOT EXPECTED TO HOLD HIS EAT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS TIME, BUT HE WON A NARROW VICTORY OVER A SOCIALIST OPPOINENT. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED A TOUGH POLITICAL IN- FIGHTER, COMITI IS A MODERATE GAULLIST WHO IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US. HE HAS VISITED THE US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO ATTEND MEDICAL CONFERENCES. HE FAVORS CLOSER FRANCO-AMERICAN RAPPROCHEMENT AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MORE OUTWARD-LOOKING EUROPE. HE IS EXTREMELY " HARD" ON THE NARCOTICS QUESTION AND HAS PUBLICLY CALLED FOR THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG PUSHERS. (COMMENT: THE CHOICE OF COMITI AS MINISTER OF RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT IS CURIOUS. HIS BITTER RIVALRY WITH GASTON DEFFERRE, WHO IS ALSO SOCIALIST PARTY LEADR IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WILL CERTAINLY NOT MAKE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MAJORITY AND THE OPPOSITION ANY EASIER. WHILE HE IS A GOOD POLITICIAN, HE HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY KNOWN FOR HIS PATIENCE OR HIS SKILL AS A MEDIATOR, TWO PERSONAL QUALITIES THAT WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE IN FACILITATING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ASSEMBLY.)

I. MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION: YVES GUENA (UDR) -- GUENA, 50, HAS TIES WITH THE GAULLIST PARTY LEADERSHIP AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE UDR, THOUGH HE HAS BEEN OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT SINCE 1968 WHEN HE STEPPED DOWN AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION. BEFORE THAT, IN 1967 , HE SERVED AS PTT

MINISTER. SINCE 1968 HE HAS SERVED ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND HE HAS BEEN MAYOR OF PERIGUEUX SINCE 1971. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE UDR CENTRAL COMMITTEE. GUENA IS A PROTEGE OF MICHEL DEBRE, A RELATIVE OF GUENA'S MOTHER'S SIDE. AN HONOR GRADUATE OF ENA, GUENA BEGAN A CAREER AS CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR IN MOROCCO. HE WAS TECHNICAL ADVISOR AND STAFF DIRECTOR TO DEBRE WHEN THE LATTER WAS JUSTICE MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER. GUENA SERVED IN 1960-61 AS AMBASSADOR TO THE IVORY COAST WHEN MESSMER WAS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AFRICA. GUENA IS REPUTEDLY ALOOF AND SELF- ASSURED. HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH DEBRE WAS SUSPECTED TO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN HIS EARLIER APPOINTMENT AT PTT AND HE IS NOW CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT THE DEBRE " FACTION" OF THE UDR IN THE GOVERNMENT.

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